

## **STEVENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INTER-AGENCY NOTIFICATION**

Processing and dismantling a Lab Site is a multi-agency response, calling for the cooperation and coordination of a number of agencies and their resources. Relevant agencies include, local fire and medical personnel, other law enforcement agencies, HazMat Disposal companies, the Dept. of Ecology, and Dept. of Health. It is the responsibility of the Site Supervisor to ensure that notification to the respective agencies is made in a timely and practical manner. .

Prior to serving a search warrant or processing the site, Dept. of Ecology and fire/medical personnel should be advised of the situation and requested to respond. The Site Supervisor and Site Safety Officer shall liaison with representatives from each agency to coordinate the response and determine an agenda for processing the Lab Site.

Depending on the location of the Lab Site, the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in that area should be notified. Additional personnel from the agency may be needed to assist in securing the site or providing additional resources.

Due to proximity and similar working procedure, the Stevens County Sheriff's Office Clandestine Lab Team has a close working relationship with local Law Enforcement agencies in Stevens County and the WSP Clandestine Lab Team. When deemed necessary by the Supervisor, the WSP Lab Team may be contacted and requested to provide assistance by means of manpower and/or equipment.

The State Dept. of Ecology and Dept. of Health shall be notified of each Lab Site. Details such as location, case number, type and size of lab, etc. shall be provided.

A commissioned law enforcement officer shall remain on-site until all other personnel have completed their tasks and leave the Lab Site.

CPS shall be notified of each lab site where children are known to be involved.

<b>Stevens County Sheriff's Office Phases of Site Processing</b>
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Processing a lab site may be divided into different phases depending on the type and size of the lab, its location, the presence of suspects, etc. These phases include:

- Tactical Warrant Service
- Securing
- Entry/Appraisal
- Processing
- Dismantling
- Documentation

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## **Tactical Warrant Service**

Tactical warrant services will be utilized in lab sites where suspects are, or are suspected to be, present at the site. A pre-raid briefing shall be held to outline all known details of the Lab Site and subjects involved. Known and suspected risks and hazards should be outlined. Preparations for evacuating any personnel injured during the raid should be made as well. This would include having an ALS and Fire unit standing by in the area and alerting nearby emergency rooms. Due to the inherent dangers involved in tactical warrant services, suspects will be taken in custody off-site prior to serving a search warrant if at all possible. This has the benefit of decreasing the chances of a confrontation with suspects at the Lab Site. .

Appropriate decontamination of suspects at the Lab Site will be undertaken prior to transport.

## **Securing**

Securing the lab site is the process involved in making the surrounding area safe for the processing and dismantling of the lab. This includes keeping unauthorized personnel out of restricted areas, establishing exclusion zones, eliminating obvious dangers around the lab site, etc. Lab Team members will also establish the decontamination and entry zones during this phase prior to any entry.

MedEvac landing zones should be located, with specific employees designated to assist in transporting and securing the landing zone should evacuation be necessary. Emergency medical personnel should be standing by in case of chemical exposure or other medical emergency.

Responding personnel shall evacuate the area if conditions and/or environmental factors present at the lab site determine that a health risk to the surrounding area exists. Contamination may extend beyond the immediate environment due to factors such as wind, water run-off, site topography, or other factors.

A pre-entry briefing given by the Site Supervisor should be held that includes all personnel involved in the Lab Site. This would include Lab Team members, fire and medical personnel, narcotics officers, etc. This briefing will outline the anticipated risks and hazards associated with that specific Lab Site, the anticipated procedure used to process and dismantle the Lab, decontamination procedure, etc.

## **Entry / Appraisal**

Primary entry into the lab site is done by the Lab Team members only, after the site is secured, exclusion zones established, and proper PPE determined and put on. Appraisal of sites will be done initially in Level B PPE. A lesser level may be worn in subsequent entries if determined appropriate by the Site Safety Officer and Site Supervisor. The purpose of the initial entry team is to appraise the condition, type; size and other factors involved in the lab and communicate this back to the Site Supervisor, Site safety Officer, and other personnel on site. To accomplish this, the team shall utilize air monitors, video cameras, etc. The team will consist of at least two team members, equipped with available monitoring and communication equipment. This initial appraisal allows the Site Supervisor and Site Safety Officer to establish a safer, more accurate strategy for processing and dismantling the lab. See Atmospheric Monitoring Section below,

## **Processing**

Processing the lab site involves the recovery and documentation of available evidence through photography, latent fingerprints, documents found on scene, chemical sampling, etc. It shall be the responsibility of the Case Officer and Property/evidence Officer to insure all recovered evidence is properly

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documented and submitted. The Records officer shall be provided with all appropriate paperwork regarding the lab call to ensure a complete case file on the response.

### **Dismantling**

Dismantling the lab site is the process of taking the lab apart to facilitate removal and disposal of items and chemicals by the Hazardous Materials Disposal Company and Department of Ecology.

### **Documentation**

Proper documentation of the actions taken at each and every Lab Site is essential in order to provide for the safest, most efficient response. This guarantees that proper safety procedures are followed consistently, the chain of evidence is kept intact, and the case against the suspect [s] is solidified.

The documentation officer shall write a Supplement Report. A copy of the documentation report shall be given to the Records Officer.

### **Case Officer**

The Case Officer is responsible for the primary general report regarding the Lab Site and the Lab Team response. These duties include:

- A. Obtaining the necessary warrants and court orders prior to entry into the lab site.
- B. Being responsible for the booking and transport of any suspects taken into custody.
- C. Ensuring that all necessary evidence recovered from the lab site is properly documented and submitted. If necessary, a Property/Evidence Officer may be appointed.

The Case Officer need not be a team member. The position is filled commonly by an officer involved in the original investigation leading to the discovery of the lab site. The Case Officer shall provide all appropriate forms and paperwork to the Records Officer.

### **Property/Evidence Officer**

The property/Evidence Officer is responsible for ensuring that all evidence recovered by the Entry Teams from the lab site are properly documented and submitted into evidence. All appropriate forms and paperwork shall be provided to the Records Officer.

This position need not be filled by a Lab Team member, and is often completed or assigned by the Lab Site Case Officer.

### **Records Officer**

The Records Officer shall communicate with appropriate members of the response team to ensure that all files, forms, and reports regarding the lab call are given or forwarded to him. The Records Officer shall keep these reports in a case file.

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**Mount Carmel Hospital Protocol  
For Children Exposed to a  
Methamphetamine Lab Site**

**Population:**

Patients removed from an environment where methamphetamine is being manufactured.

**Purpose**

To outline a protocol for evaluating patients in the ED post exposure to chemicals involved in the manufacturing process.

**Background**

Methamphetamine is an illicit street drug easily manufactured from simple ingredients in the home setting. The process of producing the drug releases a number of toxic substances and can contaminate the living environment. Children living in homes where the drug is manufactured will primarily suffer from respiratory problems. The family structure can be very fragmented and the potential for violence is high. A preliminary assessment for physical and/or sexual abuse should also be done.

The number of home labs is increasing throughout Stevens County. Mount Carmel Hospital is a designated screening facility for children removed from this environment.

**Body**

A. Inclusion: Patients brought to the ER by CPS Case Workers for screening prior to placement, or patients that have self referred after an exposure.

B. Guideline:

1. Assess and triage the patient per department protocol. Vital signs should include a pulse oximetry reading.
2. Place in a private room. If a chemical odor is smelled, remove the clothes and place them into a red bag. Double bag the clothes and contact Security for removal.
3. Give the patient a shower or bath to remove trace chemicals. Removing the trace chemicals will relieve the odor and prevent staff symptoms such as headache, burning eyes.
4. Consult CPS Social Worker on call for assessment.
5. Collect a urine sample for a toxicology screen to look for other chemical exposure, especially amphetamines. Specifically request GCMS testing for any detectable level of amphetamines.
6. Lab work should include CMPL and CBC with platelets.

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7. Medical screen exam, and assessment by ER physician including emphasis on respiratory system.
8. If respiratory rate, pulse oximetry reading, or auscultatory exam is abnormal, a chest x-ray should be done as well.
9. Physical exam should check for signs of physical or sexual abuse and neglect.
10. Provide medical care and treatment as necessary.
11. Refer to Children with Special Health Care Needs for further follow-up.

### **Responsibilities**

#### Physician/LIP:

- A. Provide Medical Screening Exams
- B. Complete physical exam.
- C. Order appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic treatments.
- D. Order Urine toxicology screen including amphetamines, CMPL, and CBC with platelets.
- E. Consult with Social Worker as to home environment, child safety and make appropriate disposition, CPS referral as needed.

#### Nursing:

- A. Triage and assess per department protocol.
- B. Carry out medical orders.
- C. Consult with CPS Social Worker as to special needs, follow up, and assessment.
- D. Provide home care instructions to caregiver.

#### Pediatric Crisis Intervention Specialist [CPS Social Worker]:

- A. Complete assessment
- B. Consult with legal authorities, physician, nurse regarding placement of child.
- C. CPS referral if needed.
- D. Refer patient to Children with Special Health Care Needs for follow-up.

<b>Tri-County Health District Environmental Drug Lab Response Process</b>
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1. Health District [HD] receives report of a drug lab.
  - A. HD staff will not respond unless law enforcement is present. If the SIRT team has been called, HD staff can wait until they arrive to respond.
  - B. HD staff are not to enter the structure[s]. Pictures of the premises should be taken.
2. Health District reviews preliminary information.

- Examples;
- Law enforcement/SIRT reports
  - DOE manifests
  - HD on site observations.
  - Information provided by property owner.

3. Health District posts site [within 24 hours].

- A. Either:
- “ May be contaminated”
  - “ Unfit” if enough information is available to warrant.
  - Contact DOH to assign a lab number.

B. HD staff must be accompanied by law enforcement if there is the possibility of danger on the site.

4. Health District contacts property owner

- A. Should try to verbally contact the property owner.
- B. Follow-up contact in writing providing the following:
- Form letter
  - Copy of the process
  - List if Certified Contractors: Because the Contractor’s list is continually revised, advise the owner that a current list is available at the DOH website [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/CDL.contractorlist.doc] or if they do not have website access, we can pull it off and send it to them.

5. Property owners contacts Certified Contractor for testing.

6. Certified Contractor meets with Health District:

- A. Discuss and get agreement on preliminary Testing Plan for any structures, vehicles and possibly environmental samples.
- B. Discuss the process and general content of a clean up work plan.

7. Certified Contractor conducts preliminary testing as approved in preliminary testing plan.

8. Health District review preliminary test results:

- A. If test results show no contamination the HD removes posting and/or title notice and process is finished.
- B. If test results show contamination the HD will issue a Health Officers Order declaring the premises unfit to occupy and:
- Post the Unfit to Occupy Notice on the property. [take pictures]
  - Notify the owner that clean up will be required and
  - File a copy of the Health Officer’s Order with the following:
    - [1] The title at the County Auditor
    - [2] Local Law Enforcement Agency

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[3] Department of Health

9. Certified Contractor submits the clean up work plan.
10. Health District reviews the work plan for approval.
11. Certified Contractor conducts the clean up according to the approved work plan.
12. Certified Contractor conducts post clean up testing.
13. Health District reviews post clean up test results:
  - A. If test results show contamination further clean up will be required starting with step 8.
  - B. If test results are acceptable, Health District:
    - Removes posting from the property.
    - Issues a Fit To Occupy order
    - Files copy of order with:
      - [1] The title at the County Auditor
      - [2] Local Law Enforcement Agency
      - [3] Department of Health
  - C. Process is finished

**DCFS & CPS  
Meth Protocol Response  
[Colville]**

Emergency Response [when there is no prior knowledge of meth use/ [production].

Business Hours:

Law enforcement will contact local office. CPS supervisor will collect known information and dispatch a social worker to the officers' location. CPS will transport children, once they are taken into custody via AEP, to Mount Carmel Hospital for medical assessment and then to licensed foster/relative care. Medical assessment will be done only when the children are believed to have been exposed to an active lab/chemical agent.

CPS supervisor will contact Central Intake to insure that a referral is made.

After Hours/Weekends:

Law enforcement will contact the on-call worker directly via the pager. Number to be provided to SCSO on a monthly basis by CPS Supervisor. If the children are to be taken into custody, the on-call CPS worker will meet the officer at the location and transport to Mount Carmel Hospital for medical assessment

and then to licensed foster/relative care. Medical assessment will be done only when the children are believed to have been exposed to an active lab/chemical agent.

CPS supervisor will contact Central Intake to insure that a referral is made.

Non-emergent Response [following investigation]

The law enforcement agency will contact Central Intake to make a referral as soon as possible without jeopardizing the investigation. Law enforcement may also contact the local DCFS office to share the information and DCFS will insure that Central Intake is notified and a referral is generated.

Once the referral/information is received at the local office, the assigned social worker will contact the site supervisor to coordinate and exchange information. The assigned social worker will be available for briefings prior to the entry and appraisal. If needed, the CPS worker will wait at the pre-selected staging area to transport the children once they are taken into custody via AEP. The CPS worker will insure that the children are taken to Mount Carmel Hospital for medical assessment.